

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01

IO-14 DRC-01 /105 W

----- 032184

P R 310940Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3187

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC

COMUSSAG/7AF NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC LNO PAO BANGKOK THAI(SH)

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

OASD/PA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4113

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR

SUBJECT: MEDIA VISIT TO USSAG/7TH AF

REF: A. COMUSSAG/7AF NKP DTG 281200Z MAR 74

B. VIETIANE 2564

1. WE FULLY ENDORSE AMB. WHITEHOUSE'S VIEWS IN REF B. IT IS BOTH UNDESIRABLE AND UNNECESSARY TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS REGARDLESS OF WHAT U.S. LAW MAY PERMIT.

2. A "NO COMMENT" ANSWER DOES NOT DENY THAT THERE ARE RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS AND THEREFORE DOES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT CREDIBILITY. MOREOVER, A "NO COMMENT" HAS THE EFFECT OF NOT PRODUCING STORIES AND THEREFORE AVOIDS GIVING THE HOSTILE PROPAGANDISTS

SOMETHING WITH WHICH TO BEAT US OVER THE HEAD, WHICH WOULD SURELY BE THE CASE IF WE SAY ANYTHING MORE.

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3. WE HAVE A SIMILAR CONCERN ABOUT QUESTION 35. UNLESS THE PHRASE "OPERATIONAL CONTROL OVER DAO SAIGON" IS CONTAINED IN SOME FACT SHEET ALREADY GIVEN TO THE PRESS THE QUESTION NEED, OF COURSE, NOT ARISE IN THOSE TERMS. HOWEVER, NO MATTER HOW IT ARISES, THE PROPOSED ANSWER WOULD GIVE BOTH HANOI AND THE CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS A PROPAGANDA FIELD DAY ALLEGING THAT SUCH A RESPONSE CONFIRMS THAT WE ARE VIOLATING THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE FINE POINTS OF WHAT "OPERATIONAL CONTROL" MAY OR MAY NOT MEAN MAY BE KNOWN TO US BUT WHETHER IT IS KNOWN TO THE CRITICS OR NOT IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE USED AGAINST US WITH DEVASTATING EFFECT.

4. AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE IN A TOUGH FIGHT FOR APPROPRIATIONS, HANDING THE ENEMY THIS KIND OF WEAPON JUST AFTER THE CHARGES ABOUT U.S. "ADVISORY" ROLE IN CAMBODIA IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW DOES NOT SEEM TO MAKE MUCH SENSE. HOWEVER THE QUESTION ARISES, A MORE APPROPRIATE ANSWER WOULD BE THE FOLLOWING:

"DAO SAIGON IS AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN SAIGON ENGAGED IN LOGISTIC SUPPORT FUNCTIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM VIETNAM. GENERAL MURRAY AND HIS STAFF OPERATE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE AMBASSADOR AS DO ALL DEFENSE ATTACHES WORLD-WIDE. DAO OPERATES THROUGH NORMAL MILITARY COMMAND CHANNELS UNDER THE TECHNICAL MILITARY SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. USSAG PROVIDES THE NEXT SENIOR LEVEL ABOVE DAO SAIGON IN THOSE NORMAL MILITARY COMMAND CHANNELS."

5. ONCE AGAIN, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CONSIDER AN EVEN MORE BASIC QUESTION - JUST WHAT ELEMENT OF U.S. OVERALL POLICY WILL BE SERVED BY HAVING THIS MEDIA VISIT TO USSAG JUST NOW?  
MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, PROPAGANDA, INFORMATION MEDIA, VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 MAR 1974  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** MEDIA VISIT TO USSAG/7TH AF  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PFOR, VS  
**To:** STATE DOD  
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